SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
MYSTERY IN SPACE
FEB.
MAR.
NO. 24
10¢
Featuring
"THE HITCHHIKER OF SPACE!"
SATURN
586,000,000 MILES
JUPITER
JUPITER CITY OR BUST!

NOW-

FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU CAN SHARE THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING EXPLOITS WITH THE BRAVE MEN WHO EXPERIENCED THEM!

JAN.-FEB. 10¢
DC
MY GREATEST ADVENTURE
featuring "My Cargo Was DEATH!"
IF ONE OF THEIR SLUGS HITS THE NITRO IN BACK, I'LL BE BLOWN SKY-HIGH!
ALSO: "I WAS KING OF DAGGER ISLAND!" "I HUNTED A FLYING SAUCER!"

If you want to know how it feels...

TO DRIVE A CARGO OF NITRO THROUGH BLAZING BANDITS' BULLETS...

WHIRRRRR

TO RULE AN ISLAND EMPIRE...

TO PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK IN THE SKIES WITH A FLYING SAUCER...

Read the first issue of

MY GREATEST ADVENTURE

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

NOW ON SALE AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!

AS A SPACE-CABBIE IT'S MY BUSINESS TO CRUISE AROUND THE SOLAR SYSTEM SEARCHING FOR FARES. BUT ANY TIME I COME ACROSS A HITCHHIKER IN THE SPACE-LANES THUMBING A FREE RIDE, I GLADLY GIVE HIM A LIFT.' YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I'VE MADE THIS AN IRONCLAD RULE WHEN YOU FINISH READING MY ADVENTURES AS A...
TAXI
"HITCHHIKER of SPACE!"
UH--ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I DON'T WANT A LIFT.' I'LL JUST WAIT HERE FOR A SPACE-STREET CAR.'
NEVER MIND, EARTHMAN--YOU THUMBED US DOWN FOR A RIDE.' NOW HOP IN.'
PUSHING A SPACE-TAXI AROUND THE SOLAR SYSTEM CAN BE A LOT OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT--I KNOW--THAT'S MY JOB.' BUT AS OF THIS MOMENT THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT ARE GONE--AND SO IS MY SPACE-TAXI.'...
TAXI

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Printed in U.S.A.

"I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY-- JUNE 12TH, 2154 ... I CHECKED IN AT IPPY* HEADQUARTERS TO FIND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO MY MISSING SPACE-TAXI..."
YOUR STOLEN HACK'S BEEN FOUND BY THE POLICE ON JUPITER! IT'S WAITING THERE IN THE POUND FOR YOU TO PICK UP!
JUPITER! BUT THAT'S 400 MILLION MILES AWAY FROM EARTH!
POLICE
*EDITOR'S NOTE: IPPY -- SLANG WORD FOR INTERPLANETARY POLICE, FROM THE INITIALS I.P.
BESIDES, I'M FLAT BROKE! HOW'LL I GET THERE?
TRY A TIME-TESTED METHOD! HITCHHIKE!
"THE IPPY TALKED LIKE THIS WAS A SHORT HOP-SKIP-JUMP TO THE MOON! ANYHOW, AS I LEFT HEADQUARTERS, I BEGAN TO GET IDEAS..."
I DON'T INTEND TO WEAR OUT MY THUMB ON COSMIC DUST... HMM, I'VE GOT IT! I'LL WORK THAT OLD STOWAWAY STUNT!
ETARY POLICE
"THAT NIGHT AT THE ROCKET-PORT, I SNEAKED ABOARD A MARTIAN FREIGHTER..."
HEH-HEH! THEY WON'T CATCH ME POUNDING THE HIGHWAYS TO OTHER WORLDS...
"I SETTLED DOWN IN A SHADOWY SPOT IN THE HOLD AND HELD ON AS THE FREIGHTER ROARED OUT TOWARD THE STARS..."
WHROOOSH!
"WE HAD JUST GONE A LITTLE WAY-- MAYBE A FEW MILLION MILES--WHEN A VERY RUDE MARTIAN AWAKENED ME..."
AH! A STOWAWAY, EH? ON YOUR FEET! WE'LL SEE WHAT THE CAPTAIN HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS!
I'VE GOT A SINKING FEELING HE'S NOT GOING TO GREET ME WITH OPEN TENTACLES!
"I WAS TAKEN TO THE CAPTAIN--WHO PROBABLY GOT OUT ON THE WRONG SIDE OF HIS NON-GRAVITY BED THAT MORNING..."
WELL, WE CAN'T MAKE HIM GET OUT AND WALK! PUT HIM TO WORK! ASSIGN HIM TO METEOR REPAIR!
OH, NO!

"METEOR REPAIR, SIMPLY AND FLATLY, AMOUNTS TO PATCHING UP A SPACE-SHIP'S HULL EVERY TIME ONE OF THOSE PEBBLE-SIZED PARTICLES RIPS A HOLE IN THE SHIP..."
GET BUSY! PATCH UP THAT HOLE BEFORE OUR AIR SEEPS THROUGH!

"WHEN WE LANDED ON MARS, I LOOKED ABOUT FOR ANOTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AT THE ROCKET-PORT, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO DO MUCH LOOKING, BECAUSE SOMEBODY SLUGGED ME..."
KWONK!

"FOR A SPLIT SECOND I SAW MORE STARS THAN I HAD SEEN OUTSIDE THE HULL OF THE MARTIAN FREIGHTER --THEN, EVERYTHING WENT BLACK AS SPACE..."
GET HIM ABOARD SHIP! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH MEN TO HANDLE OUR WORK NOW!

"LATER, AS WE PLIED THROUGH SPACE, I CAME TO..."
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF YOU VENUSIANS SHANGHAIING ME?
KEEP A COOL HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS, EARTHMAN -- OR WE'LL MAKE IT HOT FOR YOU!

WE'RE VENUSIAN BANDITS --AND WE'VE GOT A FORTUNE IN LOOT STORED ON AN ASTEROID! YOU AND THE REST OF OUR PRISONERS WILL HELP US LOAD IT ON OUR SHIP!
NOTHING DOING! I'M IN A BIG RUSH TO GET TO JUPITER!

YOU CAN GET TO JUPITER DEAD... OR OUR ASTEROID ALIVE! TAKE YOUR CHOICE!

"THAT SMUG VENUSIAN OUTLAW DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT A MERCURIAN PRISONER HAD SLIPPED ONE OF HIS FOUR ARMS FREE, AND WAS UNTYING ME..."

THAT'S IT, MERCURY! GET ME LOOSE AND I'LL FREE THE LOT OF US.'

"AS SOON AS MY MERCURY PAL HAD ME FREE, I PROPELLED A CLENCHED FIST AT THE VENUSIAN'S SCALY HEAD..."

ZWACK!

"I THEN FREED THE OTHERS--A PLUTONIAN, A MARTIAN, A SATURNIAN, AND A COUPLE OF MOON-MEN...THEN WE WENT TO WORK TAKING OVER THE SHIP..."

NOBODY'S TAKING *THIS* HACK-DRIVER OUT TO THE ASTEROID STICKS.' AT 'EM, MEN.'

"IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER AFTER THAT, SIGNALING THE INTERPLANETARY POLICE, WHO WERE PROWLING THE SPACEWAYS FOR THE GANG..."

YOU'LL BE JUSTLY REWARDED FOR HELPING CAPTURE THIS GANG, EARTHMAN, WHEN WE GET BACK TO VENUS.'

HOLD EVERYTHING--*I'M* GOING TO *JUPITER*.'

THEN HERE'S YOUR REWARD NOW, EARTHMAN.'

BUT VENUSIAN MONEY IS *GLASS*.' AND IS LEGAL TENDER NOWHERE ELSE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM.'

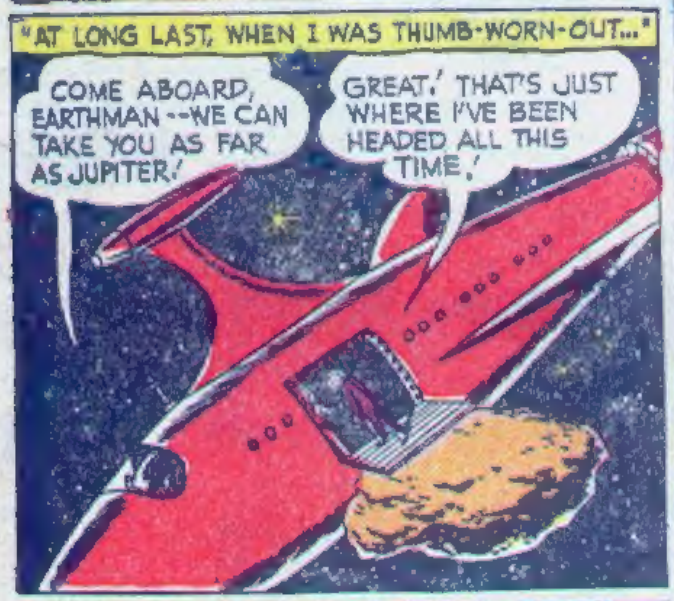
"AND THEN, THEY ALL PULLED AWAY--LEAVING ME THERE... AND GUESS WHERE I WAS..."

YOU LEFT ME ON A *TINY ASTEROID*!

FAREWELL, EARTHMAN.'

"AND THAT'S WHEN I STARTED WEARING OUT MY THUMB. I STOOD OUT THERE ON THAT ROCK IN NOWHERE MAKING THE MOST GRACEFUL HITCH-HIKE MOTIONS YOU EVER SAW..."
GOING MY WAY?

"I WATCHED THEM ALL GO PAST AT A THOUSAND MILES A SECOND... AND THEY PRETENDED THEY DIDN'T EVEN SEE ME..."


"AT LONG LAST, WHEN I WAS THUMB-WORN-OUT..."
COME ABOARD, EARTHMAN--WE CAN TAKE YOU AS FAR AS JUPITER.
GREAT! THAT'S JUST WHERE I'VE BEEN HEADED ALL THIS TIME.

"AND THEN I FOUND OUT WHY I HAD BEEN PICKED UP..."
I'VE BEEN ROAMING ALL OVER SPACE FOR A STORY FOR TRANS-SOLAR PRESS! YOU'VE GIVEN ME A GREAT IDEA FOR A NOVEL FEATURE--"HITCHHIKER OF SPACE"!
OH! SO I GOT TO "TALK" MY WAY TO JUPITER!

"BUT BEGGARS ON ASTEROIDS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS, SO I SETTLED BACK AND REVEALED THE STORY OF MY LIFE. WHEN WE LANDED..."
I'M LOOKING FOR THE LOCAL INTERPLANETARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
TAKE THE UNDER-GROUND TO MOON SQUARE--THEN WALK TWO BLOCKS TO PLANET HEIGHTS... YOU CAN'T MISS IT.

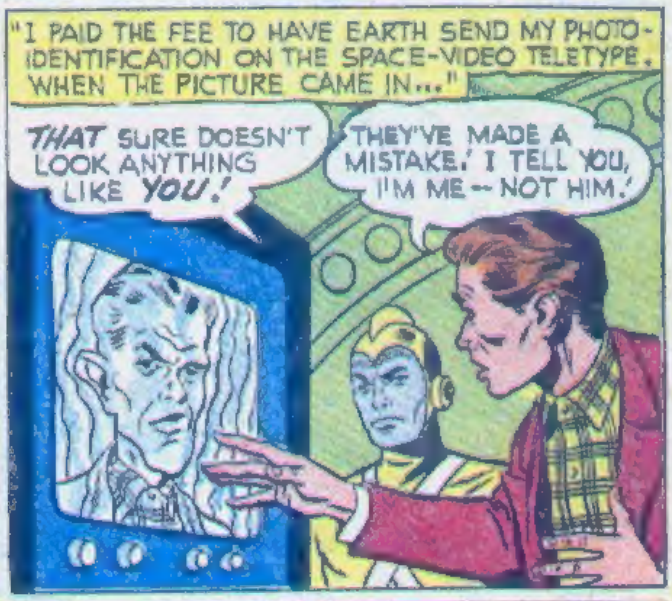
"AT LAST, I WAS AT IPPY HEADQUARTERS--AND THERE, SHINY AND RED I SAW MY SPACE-TAXI, LOOKING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER..."
THERE'S YOUR CAB! NOW--ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHOW YOUR IDENTITY--AND YOU CAN PICK IT UP.
IDENTITY--SURE...
7733

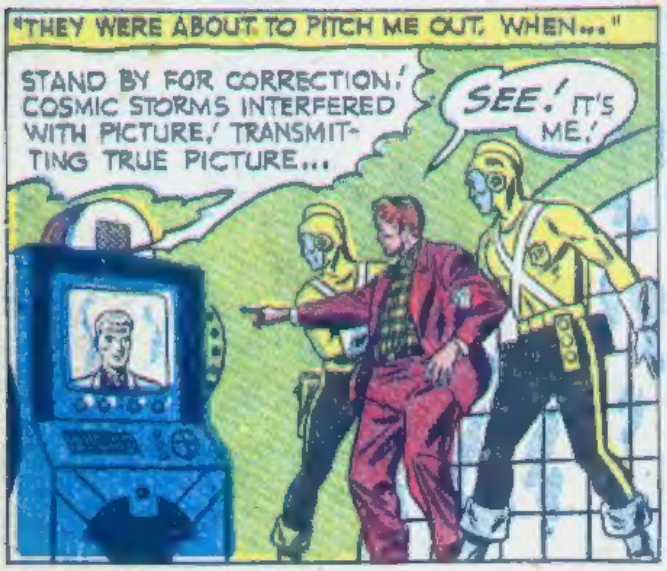
FRANTICALLY, I SEARCHED MY POCKETS--THEN SEARCHED AGAIN--WHEN THE TERRIBLE TRUTH HIT ME--I HAD LEFT MY WALLET BACK ON EARTH!
LOOK--GIVE A GUY A BREAK, WILL YOU? I LEFT MY PAPERS HOME!
SORRY--NO PAPERS, NO CAB! YOU COULD BE THE WRONG MAN! WE CAN'T TAKE CHANCES!

BUT I HITCHHIKED ALL THE WAY FROM EARTH! I WAS SLAPPED ON A METEOR-REPAIR JOB, SHANGHAIED BY VENUSIAN CROOKS--STRANDED ON AN ASTEROID! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
YOUR ONLY HOPE IS TO GET EARTH ON THE SPACE-VIDEO TELETYPE AND PROVE YOUR IDENTITY... BUT IT WILL COST YOU MONEY!

MONEY! WAIT--I HAVE MONEY! THIS VENUSIAN REWARD MONEY!
GOOD ON VENUS, YES--BUT REMEMBER, YOU'RE ON JUPITER!
HERE, MY GOOD MAN--I'LL ACCEPT THAT MONEY!

"A VOICE HAD SOUNDED BEHIND ME--THE BEST VOICE I HAD HEARD IN EONS..."
I'M TAKING OFF FOR VENUS TODAY--AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TRADE IN THIS JOVIAN MONEY FOR VENUSIAN CURRENCY!
I MAY BE GETTING SHORT-CHANGED--BUT I'M NOT COMPLAINING!


"I PAID THE FEE TO HAVE EARTH SEND MY PHOTO-IDENTIFICATION ON THE SPACE-VIDEO TELETYPE. WHEN THE PICTURE CAME IN..."
THAT SURE DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE YOU!
THEY'VE MADE A MISTAKE! I TELL YOU, I'M ME--NOT HIM!


"THEY WERE ABOUT TO PITCH ME OUT, WHEN..."
STAND BY FOR CORRECTION! COSMIC STORMS INTERFERED WITH PICTURE! TRANSMITTING TRUE PICTURE...
SEE! IT'S ME!

"SO I'M BACK ROAMING THE SPACEWAYS AGAIN, PICKING UP FARES FROM MERCURY TO PLUTO--AND I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE..."
... I PICK UP ALL SPACE-HITCHHIKERS AND RIDE 'EM FOR FREE! I KNOW THE FEELING, PAL! I KNOW IT REAL WELL!
THE END

Ring around a Tootsie Roll, what a lovely treat.
With Santa Claus and Tootsie Rolls, Xmas is complete.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
FROM Tootsie Roll

Tootsie Roll POPS—Fruit candy on the outside. **Tootsie Roll** inside. Two treats for the price of one—only 2¢.

Binky's Special CHRISTMAS Quiz
"Christmas in Many Lands!"

(ANSWERS IN LAST PANEL)

IN WHAT COUNTRY DO THE CHILDREN MAKE AN OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE OF WHEAT SHEAVES FOR THE BIRDS?

"BREAKING THE PIÑATA" IS A CHRISTMAS GAME IN WHICH BLINDFOLDED CHILDREN SMASH A BIZARRE CLAY POT WHICH SPILLS OUT CANDIES AND GOOD-LUCK CHARMS. IN WHAT COUNTRY IS IT PLAYED?

WHERE IS IT THE CUSTOM FOR CHILDREN TO FILL WOODEN SHOES ON CHRISTMAS EVE WITH TIDBITS FOR ST. NICK'S WHITE HORSE?

WHERE DO PEOPLE OBSERVE CHRISTMAS BY GATHERING AROUND A LIGHTED COMMUNITY TREE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS?

IN WHAT COUNTRY IS A CHRISTMAS CEREMONY PERFORMED IN WHICH THE MOTHER CLUCKS LIKE A HEN AND HER CHILDREN CHIRP LIKE CHICKENS, WHILE SCATTERING STRAW ON THE FLOOR OF THEIR HOME?

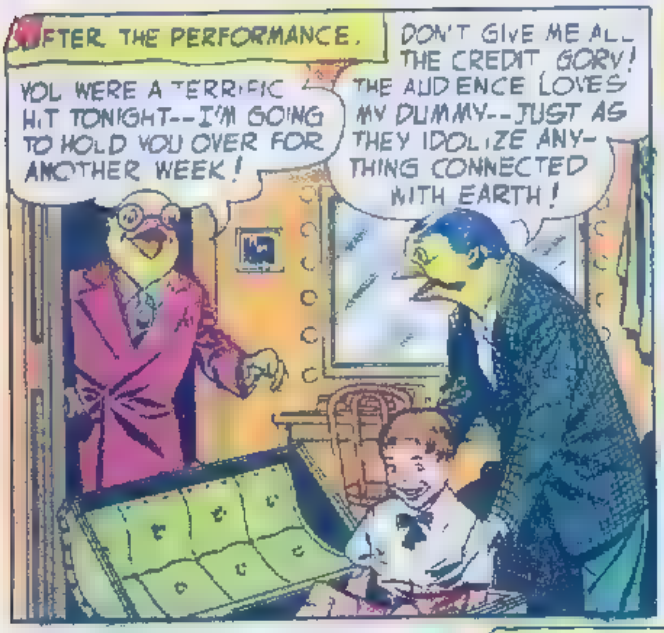
WHERE IS THE CHRISTMAS FIESTA CLIMAXED BY A GAY DANCE CALLED THE *CUECA*, PERFORMED OUTDOORS UNDER A SUMMER SKY BY A COWBOY AND A COUNTRY GIRL?

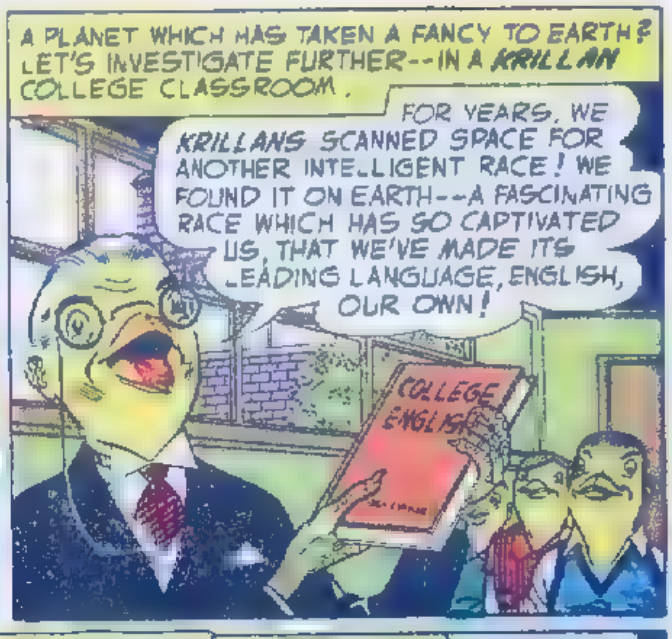
THE ANSWERS... *READ UPSIDE DOWN*

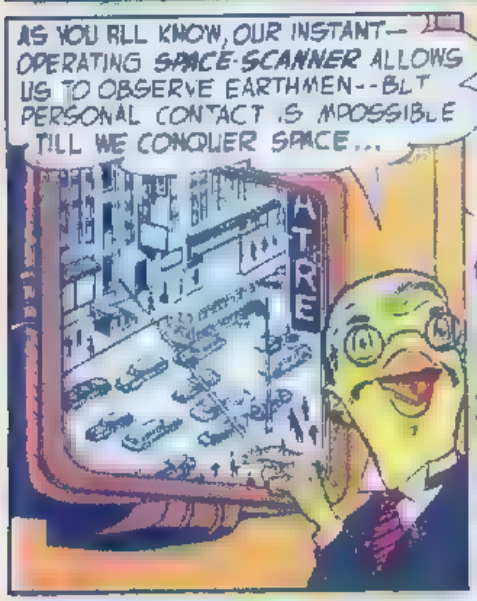
1. NORWAY
2. MEXICO
3. BELGIUM
4. UNITED STATES
5. YUGOSLAVIA
6. CHILE

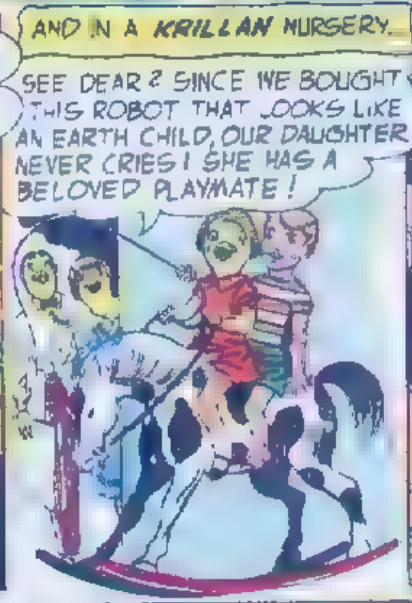
PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

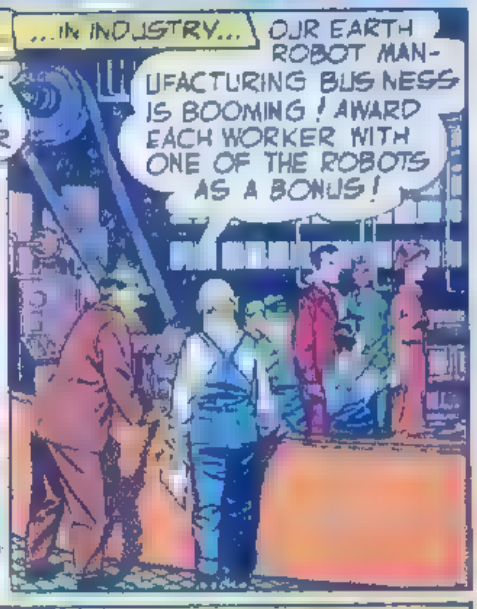
THE PLANET THAT IMITATED EARTH!
WE'RE NOT ROBOTS! WE'RE LIVING, INTELLIGENT HUMAN BEINGS!
HAHA! THEY'RE THE MOST REALISTIC ROBOTS I EVER SAW! I'LL BUY ONE!
20,000 CREDITS
15,000 CREDITS
10,000 CREDITS
10,000 CREDITS
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE A NEW PERSONALITY CAPTURES THE FANCY OF THE PUBLIC TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT MANY OF US ADOPT OUR IDOL'S WAY OF TALKING, HIS DRESS, AND HIS MANNERISMS! NOW MEET THE KRILLANS -- INHABITANTS OF ANOTHER PLANET -- WHO BECAME SO ENAMORED OF EARTHMEN THAT THE ENTIRE RACE IMITATED OUR WAY OF LIFE!
SPECIAL SALE
ON THE PLANET KRILL, IN THE STAR SYSTEM OF SIRIUS, A THEATRICAL ACT AMUSES AN AUDIENCE OF KRILLANS...
CHARLIE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU ATE GLASS?
SURE!...I'D GET A PANE IN THE STOMACH!
HAHAHAHA!
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

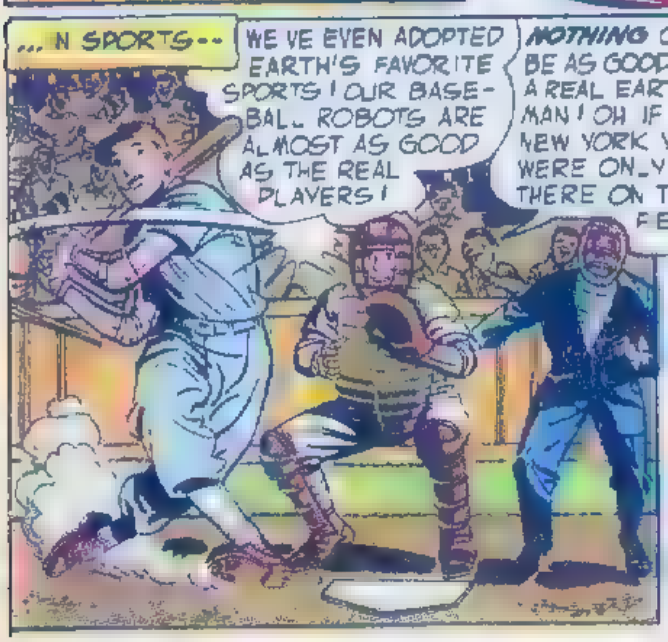

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE.
YOU WERE A TERRIFIC HIT TONIGHT--I'M GOING TO HOLD YOU OVER FOR ANOTHER WEEK!
DON'T GIVE ME ALL THE CREDIT, GORY! THE AUDIENCE LOVES MY DUMMY--JUST AS THEY IDOLIZE ANYTHING CONNECTED WITH EARTH!

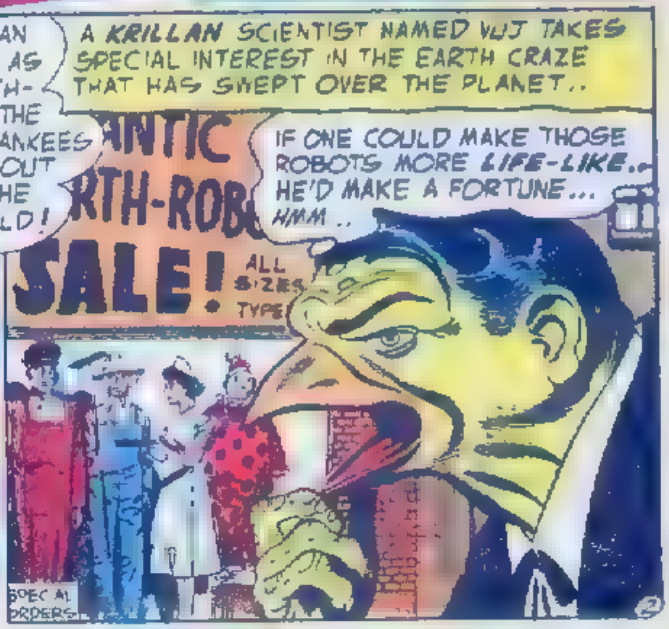

A PLANET WHICH HAS TAKEN A FANCY TO EARTH? LET'S INVESTIGATE FURTHER--IN A KRILLAN COLLEGE CLASSROOM.
FOR YEARS, WE KRILLANS SCANNED SPACE FOR ANOTHER INTELLIGENT RACE! WE FOUND IT ON EARTH--A FASCINATING RACE WHICH HAS SO CAPTIVATED US, THAT WE'VE MADE ITS LEADING LANGUAGE, ENGLISH, OUR OWN!
COLLEGE ENGLISH

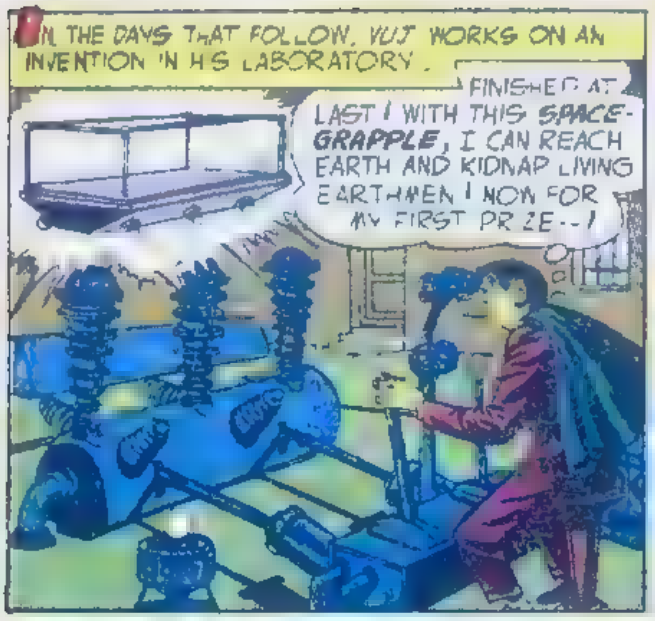

AS YOU RLL KNOW, OUR INSTANT-OPERATING SPACE-SCANNER ALLOWS US TO OBSERVE EARTHMEN--BLT PERSONAL CONTACT IS MPOSSIBLE TILL WE CONQUER SPACE...

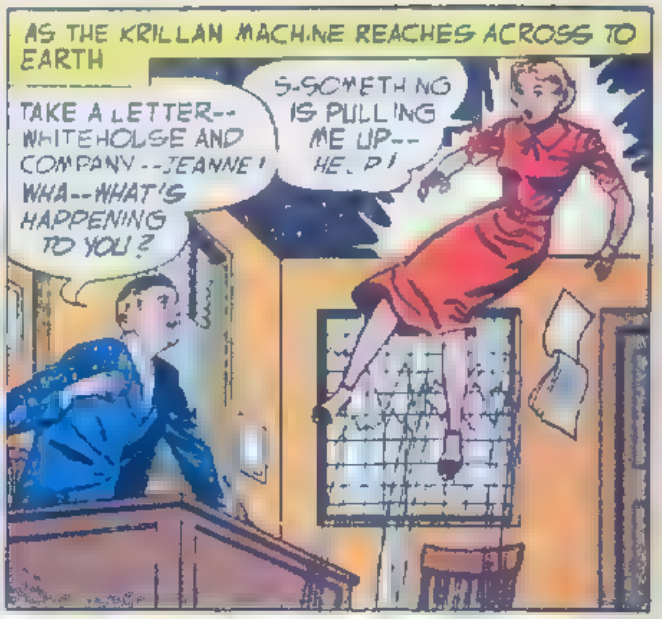

AND IN A KRILLAN NURSERY...
SEE DEAR? SINCE WE BOUGHT THIS ROBOT THAT LOOKS LIKE AN EARTH CHILD, OUR DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES! SHE HAS A BELOVED PLAYMATE!

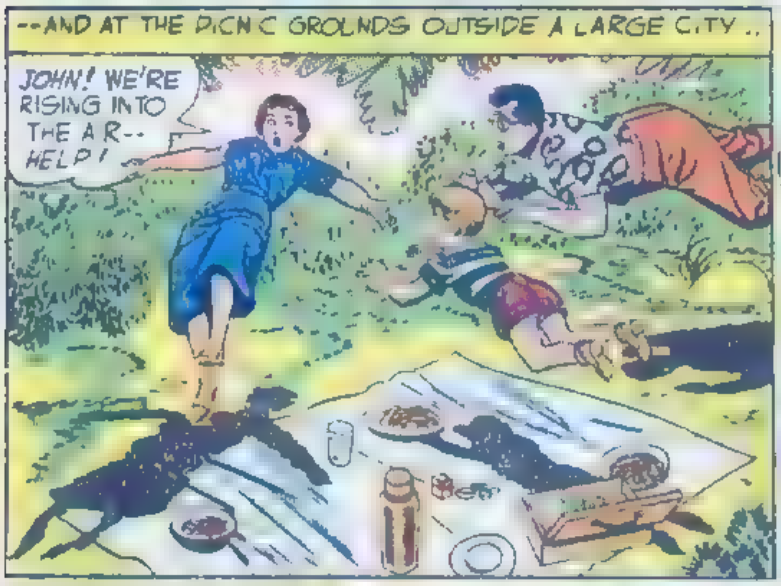

...IN INDUSTRY...
OUR EARTH ROBOT MANUFACTURING BUSINESS IS BOOMING! AWARD EACH WORKER WITH ONE OF THE ROBOTS AS A BONUS!


...IN SPORTS--
WE'VE EVEN ADOPTED EARTH'S FAVORITE SPORTS! OUR BASEBALL ROBOTS ARE ALMOST AS GOOD AS THE REAL PLAYERS!
NOTHING CAN BE AS GOOD AS A REAL EARTHMAN! OH IF THE NEW YORK YANKEES WERE ONLY OUT THERE ON THE FIELD!

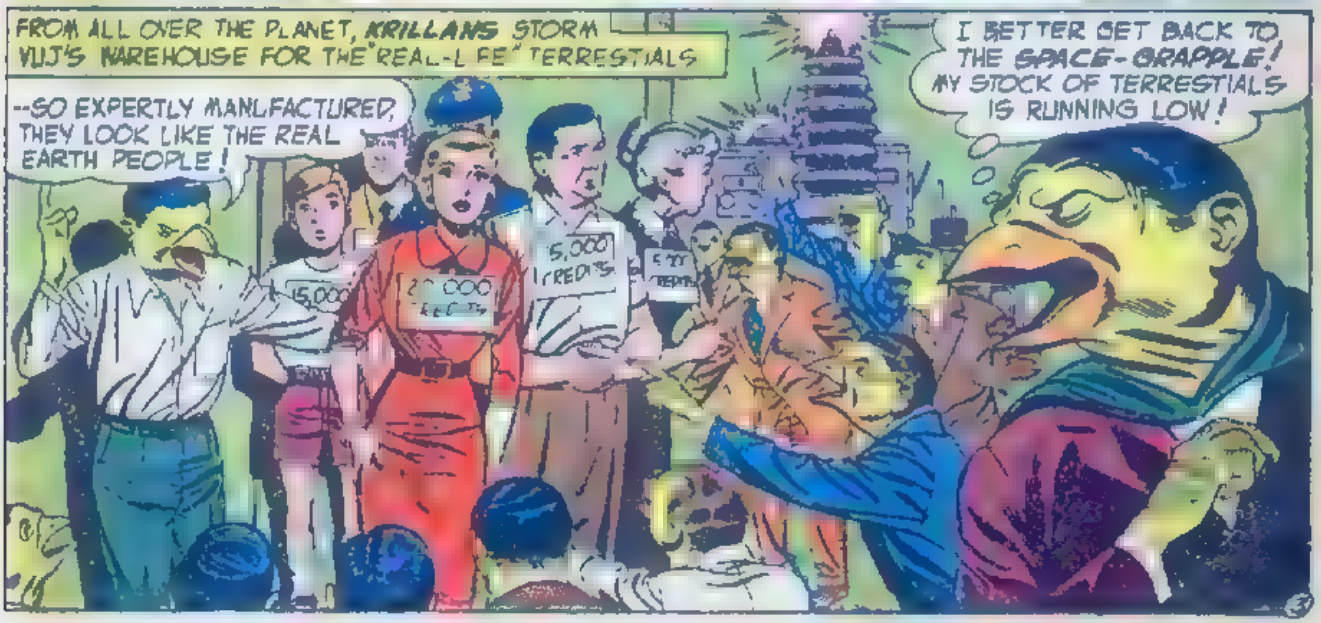

A KRILLAN SCIENTIST NAMED VUJ TAKES SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE EARTH CRAZE THAT HAS SWEPT OVER THE PLANET..
ANTIC
RTH-ROB
SALE!
ALL SIZES TYPE
IF ONE COULD MAKE THOSE ROBOTS MORE LIFE-LIKE.. HE'D MAKE A FORTUNE... HMM..
SPECIAL ORDERS

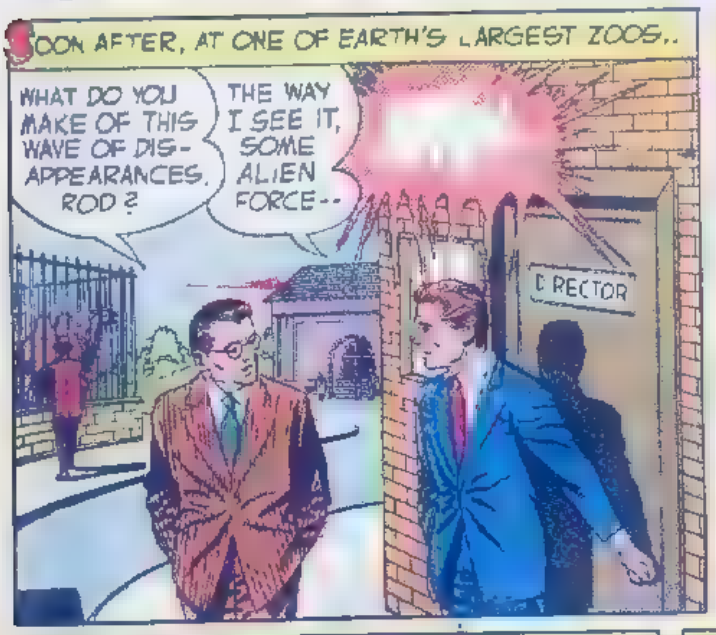

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, VUJ WORKS ON AN INVENTION IN HIS LABORATORY.
FINISHED AT LAST! WITH THIS SPACE-GRAPPLE, I CAN REACH EARTH AND KIDNAP LIVING EARTHMEN! NOW FOR MY FIRST PRIZE--!

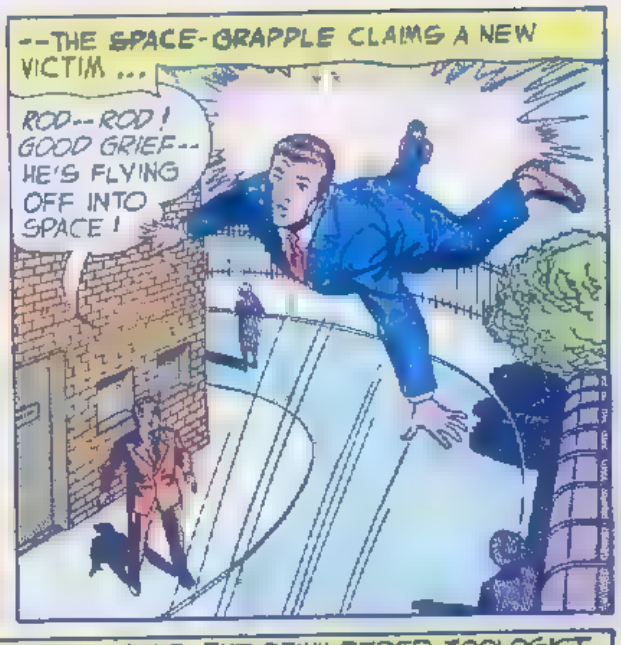

AS THE KRILLAN MACHINE REACHES ACROSS TO EARTH
TAKE A LETTER--WHITEHOUSE AND COMPANY--JEANNE! WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
S-SOMETHING IS PULLING ME UP--HELP!

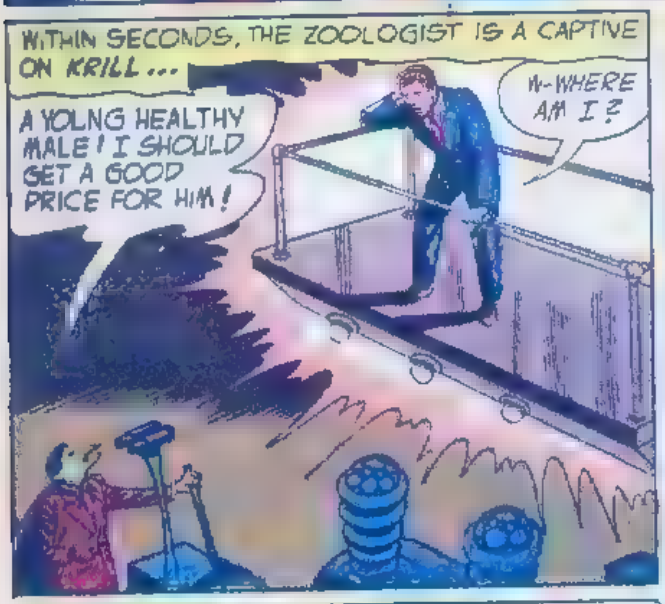

--AND AT THE PICNIC GROUNDS OUTSIDE A LARGE CITY..
JOHN! WE'RE RISING INTO THE AIR--HELP!

SOON, IN VUJ'S LABORATORY ON KRILL...
BY THE EARS OF XIL--THIS IS ASTOUNDING! THESE EARTH ROBOTS ARE SO REAL, THEY LOOK ALIVE!
THE BEST ROBOTS EVER CONSTRUCTED! THEY TALK, LAUGH, CRY! THEY GO ON SALE TOMORROW MORNING!

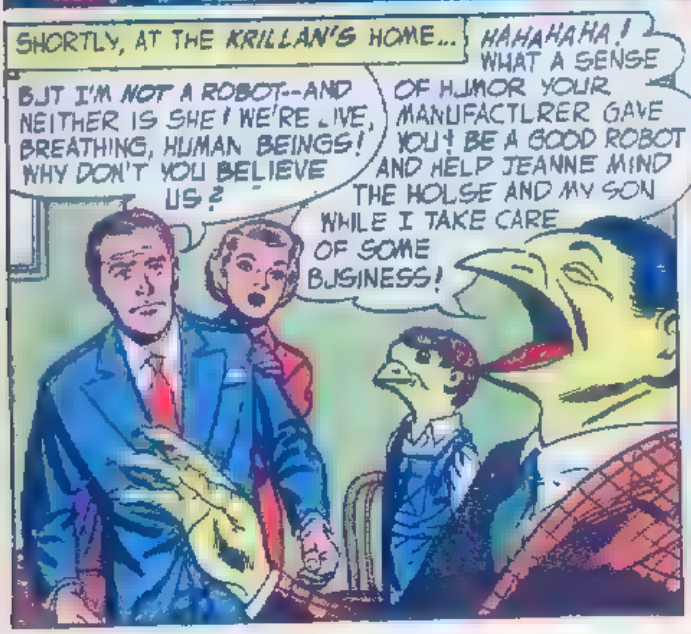

FROM ALL OVER THE PLANET, KRILLANS STORM VUJ'S WAREHOUSE FOR THE "REAL-LEE" TERRESTIALS
--SO EXPERTLY MANUFACTURED, THEY LOOK LIKE THE REAL EARTH PEOPLE!
I BETTER GET BACK TO THE SPACE-GRAPPLE! MY STOCK OF TERRESTIALS IS RUNNING LOW!
5,000 FREDS

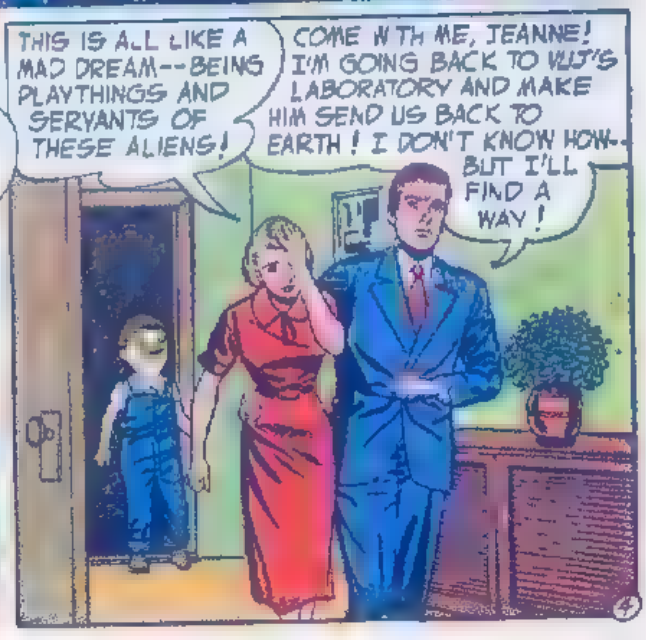

SOON AFTER, AT ONE OF EARTH'S LARGEST ZOOS..
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS WAVE OF DISAPPEARANCES, ROD?
THE WAY I SEE IT, SOME ALIEN FORCE--
DIRECTOR


--THE SPACE-GRAPPLE CLAIMS A NEW VICTIM ...
ROD--ROD! GOOD GRIEF--HE'S FLYING OFF INTO SPACE!

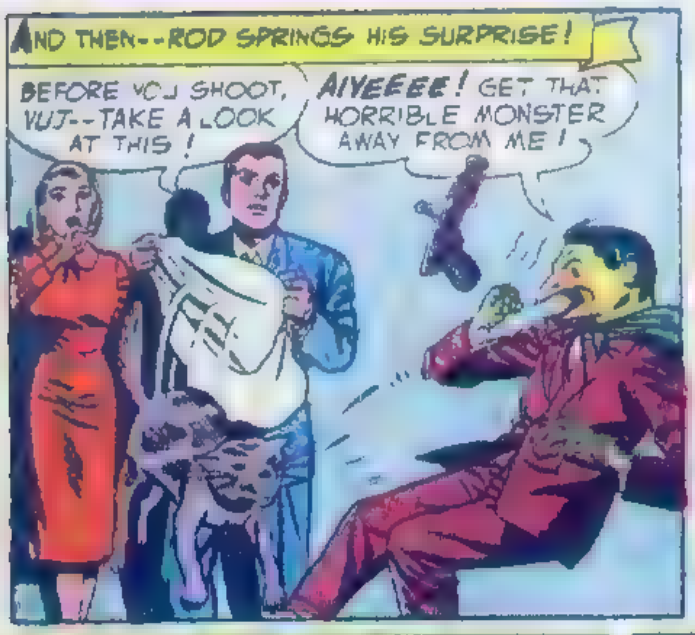

WITHIN SECONDS, THE ZOOLOGIST IS A CAPTIVE ON KRILL ...
A YOUNG HEALTHY MALE! I SHOULD GET A GOOD PRICE FOR HIM!
W-WHERE AM I?

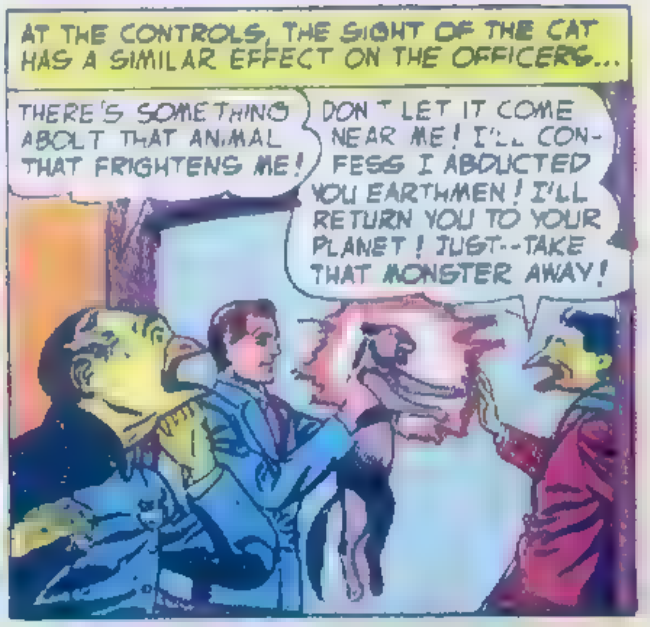
MINUTES LATER, THE BEWILDERED ZOOLOGIST FINDS HIMSELF ON SALE...
BUT I'M NOT A ROBOT--!
WONDERFUL! IT'S EVEN PROTESTING IT'S REAL! I'LL BUY THAT!
20,000 CREDITS

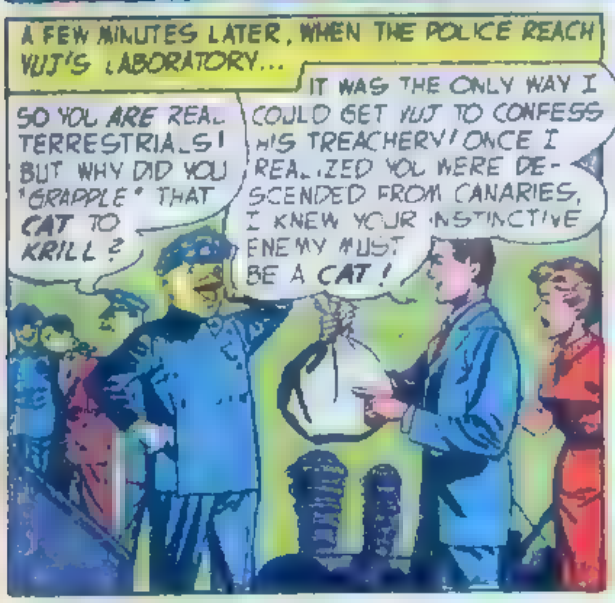

SHORTLY, AT THE KRILLAN'S HOME...
BUT I'M NOT A ROBOT--AND NEITHER IS SHE! WE'RE LIVE, BREATHING, HUMAN BEINGS! WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE US?
HAHAHAHA! WHAT A SENSE OF HUMOR YOUR MANUFACTURER GAVE YOU! BE A GOOD ROBOT AND HELP JEANNE MIND THE HOUSE AND MY SON WHILE I TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS!

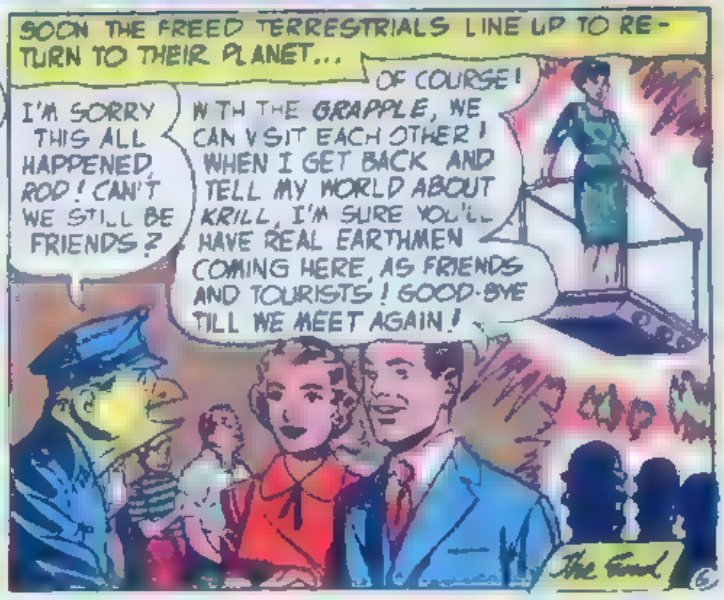

THIS IS ALL LIKE A MAD DREAM--BEING PLAYTHINGS AND SERVANTS OF THESE ALIENS!
COME WITH ME, JEANNE! I'M GOING BACK TO VLIT'S LABORATORY AND MAKE HIM SEND US BACK TO EARTH! I DON'T KNOW HOW--BUT I'LL FIND A WAY!

LATER, WHEN THE KRILLAN MASTER RETURNS HOME...
;SOB! THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE VUJ RETURN THEM TO EARTH, FATHER! ;SOB! PLEASE GET THEM BACK!
RUNAWAY ROBOTS--THAT'S STRANGE! I BETTER GO TO THE POLICE AND TELL THEM ABOUT THIS!
THEN, IN THE KRILLAN POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
DON'T WORRY, S.R! WE'LL "SCAN" THE WHOLE PLANET TILL WE FIND THEM!
I'M TUNING IN ON VUJ'S LABORATORY NOW--
ON THE SCREEN OF THE SCANNER...
ROD, ISN'T THAT THE MACHINE THAT BROUGHT US HERE?
YES--I'M GOING TO TRY TO OPERATE IT! THE KRILLANS ARE DESCENDED FROM A LIFE-FORM MUCH LIKE OUR OWN CANARIES! NOW IF I CAN GRAPPLE A--
UNAWARE THAT THE SCANNER IS OBSERVING THEM, ROD WORKS FEVERISHLY WITH THE GRAPPLE...
ROD--T'S COMING THROUGH!
I HOPE IT'S STILL ALIVE!
SUDDENLY, THERE IS A THUMP--AND ROD SNARES HIS VICTIM IN A BAG...
NOW TO WAIT T-- VUJ RETURNS--
YOU NEED WAIT NO LONGER, EARTHMAN! GET AWAY FROM THAT GRAPPLE OR I'LL KILL YOU!
AT THE CONTROLS OF THE SCANNER, PUZZLED KRILLANS TURN TO EACH OTHER.
DID YOU HEAR THAT? VUJ CALLED HIM AN EARTHMAN--AND THREATENED TO KILL HIM! HOW CAN HE KILL A LIFELESS ROBOT?
5




AT THE CONTROLS, THE SIGHT OF THE CAT HAS A SIMILAR EFFECT ON THE OFFICERS...
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ANIMAL THAT FRIGHTENS ME!
DON'T LET IT COME NEAR ME! I'LL CONFESS I ABDUCTED YOU EARTHMEN! I'LL RETURN YOU TO YOUR PLANET! JUST--TAKE THAT MONSTER AWAY!


A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE POLICE REACH VUJ'S LABORATORY...
SO YOU ARE REAL TERRESTRIALS! BUT WHY DID YOU "GRAPPLE" THAT CAT TO KRILL?
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET VUJ TO CONFESS HIS TREACHERY! ONCE I REALIZED YOU WERE DESCENDED FROM CANARIES, I KNEW YOUR INSTINCTIVE ENEMY MUST BE A CAT!


SOON THE FREED TERRESTRIALS LINE UP TO RETURN TO THEIR PLANET...
I'M SORRY THIS ALL HAPPENED, ROD! CAN'T WE STILL BE FRIENDS?
OF COURSE! WITH THE GRAPPLE, WE CAN VISIT EACH OTHER! WHEN I GET BACK AND TELL MY WORLD ABOUT KRILL, I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE REAL EARTHMEN COMING HERE, AS FRIENDS AND TOURISTS! GOOD-BYE TILL WE MEET AGAIN!
The End

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912 AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION OF

MYSTERY IN SPACE, published Bi-Monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1954

1. The names and addresses of the Publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are: Publisher, National Comics Publications, Inc. 480 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. Editor, F. W. Ellsworth 480 Lexington Avenue New York 17 N. Y. Managing Editor, none. Business Manager J. S. Liebowitz, 480 Lexington Avenue New York 17 N. Y.

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J. S. LIEBOWITZ, Business Manager.

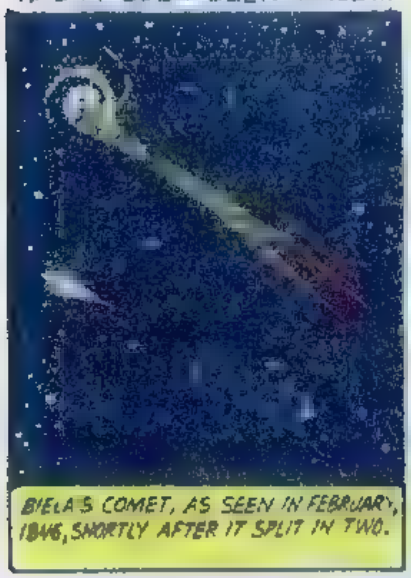
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of September, 1954

ALFRED B. YAFFE, Notary Public

My commission expires March 30, 1956.)

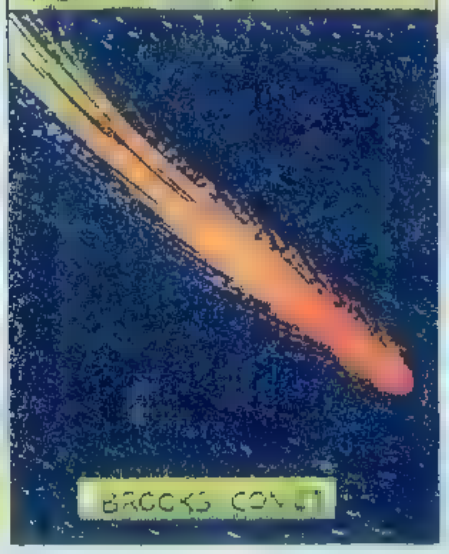
CURIOUS COMETS!

IN 1846, WHILE *BIELA'S COMET* WAS UNDER OBSERVATION IT SUDDENLY BECAME PEAR-SHAPED AND SPLIT IN TWO! ON ITS SCHEDULED RETURN IN 1858, NO TRACE OF IT COULD BE FOUND AND IT HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE...



BIELA'S COMET, AS SEEN IN FEBRUARY, 1846, SHORTLY AFTER IT SPLIT IN TWO.

UP TO JULY 20, 1886, *BROOKS' COMET* MADE A REGULAR APPEARANCE EVERY 29.2 YEARS. BUT ON THAT FATAL DAY THE COMET PASSED SO CLOSE TO JUPITER (ONLY 55,000 MILES AWAY) THAT THE PLANET'S GRAVITY CHANGED THE COMET'S ORBIT TO 7.10 YEARS



THE *GREAT COMET OF 1843* WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS 200 MILLION-MILE LONG NARROW AND STRAIGHT TAIL AND FOR ITS REMARKABLE ORBIT AROUND THE SUN IN WHICH THE COMET RACED *THREE-QUARTERS* OF THE WAY AROUND THE SUN IN *ONE DAY*, BUT WILL TAKE *THOUSANDS OF YEARS* TO COMPLETE THE LAST QUARTER OF ITS PATH.

ADVERTISEMENT

Hey kids!

SEE IF YOU'RE SMARTER than the SMITH BROTHERS!

WHEN YOUR COUGHING BOTHERS YOU AND YOUR HACKING BOTHERS OTHERS...

TAKE THE COUGH DROP THAT'S DELICIOUS GET WILD CHERRY BY SMITH BROTHERS!

Get The Cough Drop That Leads 'Em All In Flavor!

How you'll go for Smith Brothers Wild Cherry Cough Drops! They're so delicious—tantalizing and and good—just wait till you taste that Wild Cherry flavor! And they-s-o-o-t-h-e your throat when coughing starts. Get 'em—you'll love 'em!

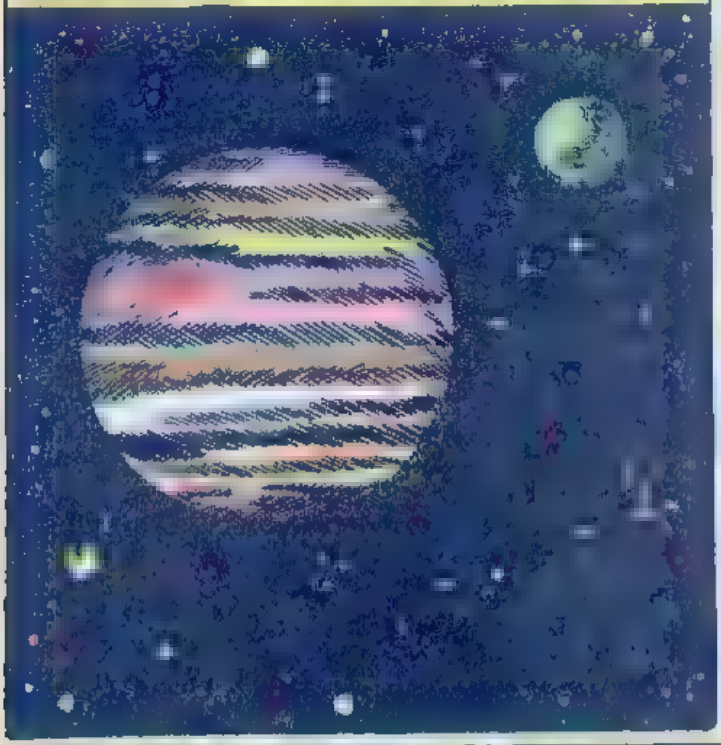
NOW... See how many rhymes you can find for "Brothers" Match wits with your family and friends and make delicious tasting Smith Brothers Wild Cherry Cough Drops the prize. Here's how we rate

- ☐ 1-2 rhymes: NOT SO HOT!
- ☐ 3-4 rhymes: BETTER THAN AVERAGE!
- ☐ 5-6 rhymes: YOU REALLY WORKED!
- ☐ 7 or more: WE DON'T BELIEVE IT!

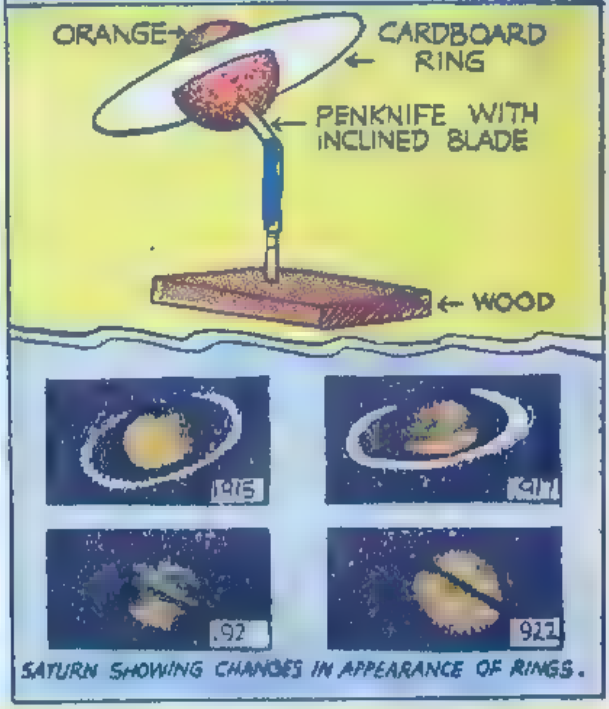
SMITH BROTHERS WILD CHERRY COUGH DROPS 5¢

PLANETS of WONDER!

THE DISTINCTIVE ***RED SPOT OF JUPITER*** HAS DISAPPEARED AND REAPPEARED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE ITS DISCOVERY IN 1664. NOT ONLY HAS ITS SHAPE CHANGED FROM AN ECLIPSE TO A CAPSULE WITH POINTED ENDS, BUT IT HAS UNDERGONE COLOR TRANSFORMATIONS FROM PALE PINK TO DEEP BRICK-RED TO SALMON PINK TO NO COLOR AT ALL...

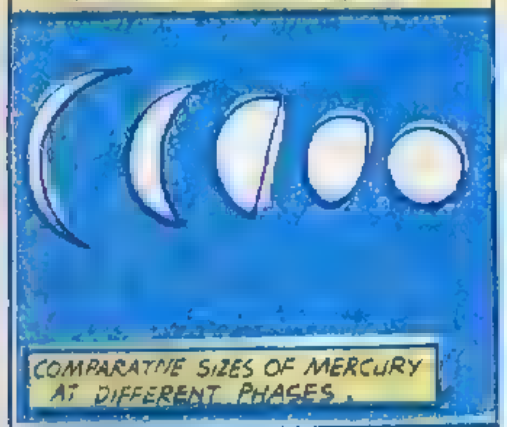


MAKE A MODEL OF AN ORANGE, PENKNIFE, A FLAT CIRCULAR CARDBOARD RING AND A BLOCK OF WOOD (AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE PANEL BELOW). BY PLACING THE MODEL AT EYE-LEVEL, AN OBSERVER WALKING AROUND IT WILL SEE HOW THE RINGS OF ***SATURN*** CONTINUALLY CHANGE POSITION AS SEEN FROM EARTH...



SATURN SHOWING CHANGES IN APPEARANCE OF RINGS.

THE DISTANCE OF ***MERCURY*** FROM THE EARTH VARIES FROM ABOUT 50 MILLION TO 136 MILLION MILES -- THUS APPARENTLY CAUSING THE PLANET TO CHANGE IN SIZE WHEN VIEWED FROM OUR PLANET...



COMPARATIVE SIZES OF MERCURY AT DIFFERENT PHASES.

THE PLANET WHEN FULL IS FARTHER AWAY FROM THE EARTH THAN WHEN IT IS A CRESCENT, SO ITS DISK APPEARS SMALLER.

IF THE PLANET MARS IS MAGNIFIED 72 TIMES, IT WILL APPEAR THROUGH THE TELESCOPE AS LARGE AS THE FULL MOON APPEARS TO OUR UNAIDED EYE. DOUBLE THIS MAGNIFICATION TO 144 TIMES AND ***MARS*** WILL HAVE THE SAME WIDTH AS A FOREFINGER HELD AT ARM'S LENGTH FROM THE OBSERVER'S EYE...

THE UNEARTHLY EARTHMAN!

BY MID-21ST CENTURY, THE 50-MILLION MILE TRIP TO MARS HAS BECOME A ROUTINE FLIGHT! NOW, RESTLESS EARTHMEN EYE THE NEXT PLANET OUT--JUPITER! THEN, A LONE EAGLE OF SPACE MAKES THE DARING 340-MILLION MILE LEAP, THE FIRST EVER TO LAND ON THE MIGHTIEST PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM--WHERE INSTEAD OF RECEIVING THE TREMENDOUS WELCOME HE EXPECTS, THE EARTHMAN IS BRANDED A TWO-FACED JOVIAN IMPOSTOR!

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME! I DID COME FROM THE PLANET EARTH!

WHAT A SILLY HOAX! YOU'RE NOT FOOLING US AT ALL!

"IT WAS JUST BEFORE DAWN THAT I BRAKED MY SHIP DOWN ON JUPITER..."

THE FIRST EARTHMAN TO FLY BEYOND MARS AND LAND ON JUPITER!

MADE IT JUST IN TIME TOO! I'M OUT OF FUEL--BUT MY SPECTROSCOPE SHOWS DURINIUM DEPOSITS HERE--GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE ME BACK TO EARTH!

"AT DAYLIGHT I HEADED FOR THE NEARBY CITY, ANXIOUS FOR MY FIRST CONTACT WITH THE TOVIAN PEOPLE..."
GREETINGS, JOVIANS! I AM THE FIRST TO TRAVEL HERE FROM THE THIRD SOLAR PLANET--EARTH!
WHAT KIND OF A RECEPTION IS THIS? THE JOVIANS JUST GIVE ME A MILD STARE AND PASS ME BY AS IF MY PRESENCE HERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL!
SEEING TWO UNIFORMED MEN--WHO APPEARED TO BE PLANET POLICE--I WALKED OVER TO THEM, AND..."
SEE HERE--I'M FROM THE PLANET EARTH! I KNOW I AM THE FIRST HUMAN TO LAND HERE! WHY DO YOU JOVIANS IGNORE ME?
AN ORIGINAL DISGUISE, XYTLL! BUT HARDLY CLEVER ENOUGH TO FOOL ANYBODY ON JUPITER!
XYTLL? I DON'T UNDERSTAND! MY NAME IS CLYDE DARROW, AND I'M FROM EARTH!
THIS NEW STUNT OF YOURS--WHATEVER IT IS--WILL NOT WORK, XYTLL!
THE WHOLE PLANET HAS BEEN ALERTED TO WATCH OUT FOR YOUR CLEVER TRICKS, XYTLL--MASTER OF DISGUISES, ARCH-CRIMINAL OF JUPITER! NOW THIS--POSING AS AN EARTHMAN! HA!
TAKE ME TO YOUR GOVERNING CONSUL! I'LL PROVE I'M FROM EARTH!
"THEN, VOICES FROM A BALCONY ABOVE, WHERE OTHERS HAVE BEEN WATCHING AND LISTENING..."
WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CONSUL! IF YOU ARE NOT XYTLL, THE CRIMINAL, AND ARE REALLY FROM EARTH, EXPLAIN HOW YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE!
THE MECHANICAL BRAIN OF MY LINGUA-TRANSMITTER AUTOMATICALLY TRANSLATES MY LANGUAGE INTO YOURS, AND YOURS INTO MINE!

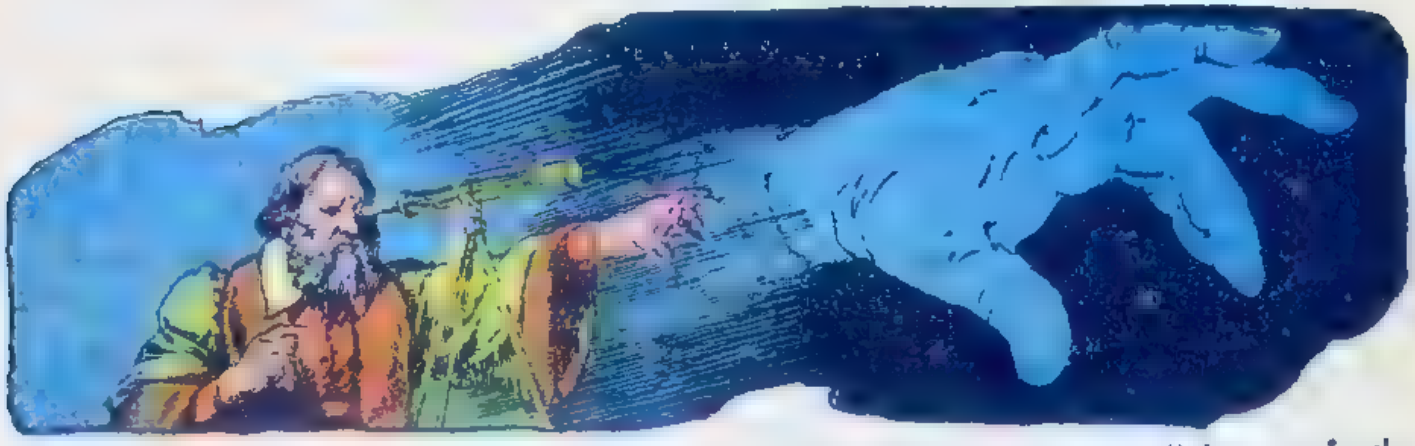
BUT WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TURN OFF THE TRANSMITTER-- I WILL SPEAK AN EARTHIAN LANGUAGE THAT YOU WILL NOT UNDERSTAND...
G-G-G... MMMMMM... IGGGZZB... B...B...
THAT DEMONSTRATION IS HARDLY WORTHY OF YOUR TALENTS, XYTLL! ANYBODY CAN SPEAK GIBBERISH, AND CLAIM IT IS AN ALIEN LANGUAGE!
WHAT ABOUT MY SPACE-SHIP? SURELY YOU CAN'T DENY ITS EXISTENCE!
NO, AND WE'RE PUZZLED HOW THAT FITS INTO YOUR SCHEME! OBVIOUSLY, IT CAN'T FLY INTO SPACE!
ALL RIGHT, YOU SKEPTICS, COME WITH ME--AND I'LL SHOW YOU!
NO--WAIT! I FORGOT! I'M OUT OF FUEL! I NEED SOME OF YOUR DURINIUM TO FLY MY SHIP!
AH! SO THAT IS YOUR PLAN! IT IS A BRAZEN ATTEMPT TO GET HOLD OF DURINIUM!
YOU KNOW VERY WELL DURINIUM IS JUPITER'S MOST POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE! WITH IT IN YOUR POSSESSION, YOU COULD BLOW UP THIS CITY! THAT S WHY WE KEEP IT LOCKED SAFELY IN THE VAULTS!
ALL RIGHT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE I'M FROM EARTH! BUT CAN YOU PROVE I AM LYING?
THAT WON'T BE DIFFICULT, IF YOU AGREE TO TAKE A LIE DETECTOR TEST!

AND THUS CLYDE DARROW RELATES HIS STORY TO THE LIE DETECTOR...
...AND I SAY EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU IS TRUE!
WHAT DO THE MACHINE READINGS SAY, JHEERL?
A PACK OF LIES--FROM BEGINNING TO END!
NO! YOUR MACHINE IS FAULTY--MAYBE IT DOESN'T WORK ON AN EARTHMAN!
DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO IMPRISON ME?
NO--FOR THOUGH WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SMASHED YOUR CLAIM TO BE FROM THE EARTH, THERE STILL EXISTS THE SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT YOU ARE NOT XYTLL...
...SO BY JOVIAN LAW, WE MUST WAIT UNTIL WE FIND POSITIVE PROOF THAT YOU ARE XYTLL BEFORE WE CAN IMPRISON YOU! WE WARN YOU, YOU WILL BE WATCHED CAREFULLY!
DURING THE REST OF THAT DAY, THE FORLORN FIGURE WANDERS THROUGH JOVIAN STREETS, HOPES OF PROVING HIS IDENTITY FADING WITH EVERY STEP...
NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAM DID I IMAGINE IT WOULD BE SO DIFFICULT TO PROVE TO ANYONE THAT I AM AN EARTHMAN!
DEEP IN THOUGHT, THE EARTHMAN WALKS INTO A GREAT EMPTY LOT--UNAWARE THAT IT'S A DANGER ZONE...
SURELY THERE MUST BE A FOOLPROOF WAY TO CONVINCE THEM I'M FROM ANOTHER PLANET!
SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, DARROW IS SHOT SKYWARD LIKE A SPINNING HUMAN BULLET...
HELP!

FROM A NEARBY ROOFTOP, A GREAT NET SHOOTS OUT AND SNARES THE EARTHMAN...
WE'VE GOT HIM! HAUL HIM IN!
THEN, A MOMENT LATER, ON THE ROOFTOP...
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE ZERO-GRAVITY ZONE SIGN, XYTLL? OR WERE YOU ATTEMPTING ANOTHER TRICK?
ZERO-GRAVITY ZONE? SO THAT'S WHAT I ENTERED! BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN THERE--I'M SURE OF IT!
TELL ME, IF YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT I'M XYTLL, WHY DID YOU SAVE ME? WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME FLY OFF INTO SPACE?
WE'VE FIRST GOT TO PROVE BEYOND ALL DOUBT THAT YOU ARE XYTLL!
THEN SUDDENLY, DARROW THINKS OF A FOOL-PROOF EARTHIAN METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION...
WAIT! THERE IS A WAY YOU CAN FIND OUT IF I'M XYTLL! MY FINGERPRINTS! TAKE MY FINGERPRINTS AND COMPARE THEM TO XYTLL'S IN YOUR CRIMINAL FILE!
FINGERPRINTS? WHAT GOOD ARE FINGERPRINTS?
THE TINY LINES ON THE FINGERS OF A HUMAN ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF EVERY OTHER HUMAN ON EARTH WE USE THIS SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY ONE MAN FROM ANOTHER!
THAT SYSTEM IS UNKNOWN ON JUPITER--AS YOU VERY WELL KNOW!
WHY DON'T YOU CONFESS YOU'RE XYTLL AND SAVE US FURTHER TROUBLE?
NEVER!... SAY, WHAT ABOUT THAT ZERO-GRAVITY SIGN? IT WASN'T THERE WHEN I ENTERED THE AREA! SOMEBODY MUST HAVE MOVED IT SO I'D ENTER THE ZONE AND BE KILLED! AND I KNOW WHO!
THEN, A LAST CHANCE IDEA SPRINGS IN THE EARTHMAN'S MIND...
LISTEN! ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP ME PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT I AM AN EARTHMAN?
WE ARE WILLING--PROVIDED YOU CONFESS YOU ARE XYTLL, IF YOUR PROOF FAILS TO CONVINCE US!

THAT NIGHT, THE EARTHMAN GOES FIRST TO THE DURINIUM VAULTS, THEN TO HIS SPACE-SHIP ONLY TO BE SURPRISED BY A FIGURE BEHIND HIM.
NOT SO FAST, EARTHMAN! I DON'T KNOW WHAT EARTHIAN TRICK ENABLED YOU TO STEAL THE DURINIUM, BUT YOU'LL NEVER USE IT AS FUEL TO ESCAPE!
JHEERL!
NOT JHEERL, BUT XYTLL! IT WAS EASY FOR ME, A MASTER OF DISGUISE, TO TAKE JHEERL'S PLACE AT THE LIE DETECTOR! I HAD TO MAKE A "LIE" OF YOUR WHOLE STORY, EARTHMAN!
IF YOU WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE IN THIS SHIP, THE HUNT WOULD CONTINUE FOR ME! BUT WHEN I KILL YOU, THAT CHASE WILL END! THEN I CAN CARRY ON WITH MY CRIMINAL PLANS, UNMOLESTED...
DROP YOUR GUN, XYTLL!
I HAVE THE EARTHMAN IN MY SIGHTS! LET ME GET AWAY--OR HE DIES!
SHOOT ME, XYTLL--AND I'LL DROP THIS DURINIUM! IT'LL BLOW US ALL UP!
XYTLL'S HAND WAVERS MOMENTARILY--AND THE JOVIAN POLICE CLOSE IN..
GOOD WORK, EARTHMAN! AS YOU TOLD US, ONLY ONE MAN KNEW YOU REALLY WERE FROM EARTH--AND THAT WAS XYTLL! YOUR PLAN OF STEALING THE DURINIUM AND HAVING HIM SHOW UP TO STOP YOU WAS SUCCESSFUL!
AS A REWARD FOR HELPING US CAPTURE XYTLL, YOU MAY HAVE REAL DURINIUM--INSTEAD OF THE IMITATION MATERIAL YOU CARRIED HERE!
IMITATION DURINIUM! I WAS TRICKED!
WEEKS LATER, AS CLYDE DARROW NEARS EARTH...
I JUST REALIZED I DIDN'T TAKE A SINGLE PIECE OF EVIDENCE TO PROVE I WAS ON JUPITER! PEOPLE ON EARTH MAY NOT BELIEVE ME! DON'T TELL ME THAT I'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS AGAIN!
The End
6

WONDERS of SPACE



COSMIC EXPLOSION!

AT unpredictable intervals, an obscure star in the sky suddenly flares up to a great brilliance and then slowly fades away into the dim obscurity from which it arose. The appearance of such a *nova*—as this exploding star is known—is deemed so important by astronomers that they promptly abandon whatever work they're doing to concentrate their studies solely on this short-lived phenomenon.

In 1885 a star suddenly appeared in our neighbor galaxy, Andomeda, of such extraordinary intensity that it was a tenth as bright as the entire galaxy, consisting of billions of star-suns! Because the distance of the Andomeda Nebula was not known at this time, considerable speculation arose as to the true brightness of the nova. Eventually it was shown that it had attained a brightness equal to the combined average brightness of 100,000,000 suns! This new star could not be dignified with the ordinary classification of a nova, so the word *super-nova* was employed to set it aside from the ordinary nova. (It is impossible to give a definite estimate of the total number of novas which appear each year, for undoubtedly many escape detection. One guess has it that ten or more reach a brightness of the ninth magnitude or greater each year—with stars up to the sixth magnitude capable of being seen by the naked eye.)

Super-novas are such a rarity that only three of them are believed to have occurred in our own galaxy during the last 900 years. The first such super-nova was historically recorded in 1064 A.D., and may still be seen in the sky in the form of the *Crab Nebula*. The second of these marvels took place in 1572 in the constellation of Cassiopeia. It was extensively observed by the famous astronomer Tycho Brahe, who described it as "its brightness exceeded that of Sirius, and of Jupiter. Persons gifted with good eyesight could distinguish this star in daylight, even at noonday. At night, with a cloudy sky, when other stars were veiled, the new star often remained visible through tolerably thick clouds . . ."

The third of the super-novas appeared in 1604, in the constellation of Ophiuchus, and was intently studied by another famous astronomer, Johann Kepler. It became brighter than Jupiter and remained visible to the human eye for 17 months, the identical length of time as the super-nova of 1572.

To illustrate the brightness-immensity of a super-nova even more vividly, if one should suddenly appear at the same distance as that of the nearest star (Alpha Centauri), it would shine with a light 2000 times as bright as our full moon!

Strangely enough, astronomers originally had a simple explanation for the appearance of novas. The flare-up was simply due to a collision between two stars. However, while such a cosmic collision would indeed produce this spectacular amount of light, it does not take into account the comparative rarity of star collisions with the greater frequency occurrence of novas.

It has been estimated that the chances for

star collisions are once in every hundreds of thousands of years; while since the beginning of the 20th century 13 bright novas have been spotted, and no doubt there must be hundreds more that have been too faint and too far away to be observed.

Current theory supposes that the outer layers of a star become unstable, resulting in their being blown off the surface in the form of violent explosions. Furthermore, novas seem to occur with greater frequency among stars composed of less than average hydrogen. Since our own sun is abundantly supplied with hydrogen there is no cause for alarm that it will unexpectedly turn into a nova for many more centuries—a calamity, of course, that would instantly snuff out all life on our world.

This discussion of novas is but a sampling taken from a fascinating new book that has just been published, "A Brief Text in Astronomy," by W. T. Skilling and R. S. Richardson (published by Henry Holt and Company). The reader who wishes to delve further into the mysteries and wonders of space would do well to read this volume, which skillfully narrates by word and picture our knowledge of the universe.

SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS!

When the average person is confronted with figures repersenting the enormous distances and sizes of the various members of our solar system, he is unable to comprehend them unless they are reduced to understandable terms.

The most convenient method is to set up an illustrative scale model, in which the largest member of the solar system, the sun—864,000 miles in diameter—might be reduced to a basketball, one foot in diameter. With this picture in mind it isn't difficult to imagine that our earth on the same scale would be placed 100 feet away from the sun and be represented by a pepper corn one-tenth of an inch wide.

Extending this concept to the other planets, Mercury, the planet closest to the sun, will assume the form of a mustard seed resting 40 feet from the basketball-sun. Another pepper corn, minutely smaller than the one standing for earth, will represent Venus 70 feet away. Pinheaded-Mars will be situated 100 feet out, followed by some fine dust sprinkled thinly between 200 and 400 feet distant, illustrating the astroids.

The largest planet, Jupiter, will assume the shape of a marble, an inch wide, and 520 feet away from the center. Another marble slightly less than an inch across will serve as Saturn. Two half-inch cherries, 650 yards and 1000 yards away, mark the positions and sizes of Uranus and Neptune respectively. And on the outskirts will lie Pluto, 1300 yards off, as a grain one-twentieth of an inch in diameter.

From this scale model we can easily grasp the extreme emptiness of the solar system. A few tiny objects, in a field almost three miles across and containing nearly 4,000 acres.

Being the only solar system definitely known to exist, the discovery in recent years of planet-like bodies revolving around certain distant stars has tremendously excited astronomers. One of the first to be "discovered" was in the constellation of Cygnus, where a double star was spotted with a third member, only 16 times the mass of Jupiter, but still hundreds of times smaller than either of the double star-suns.

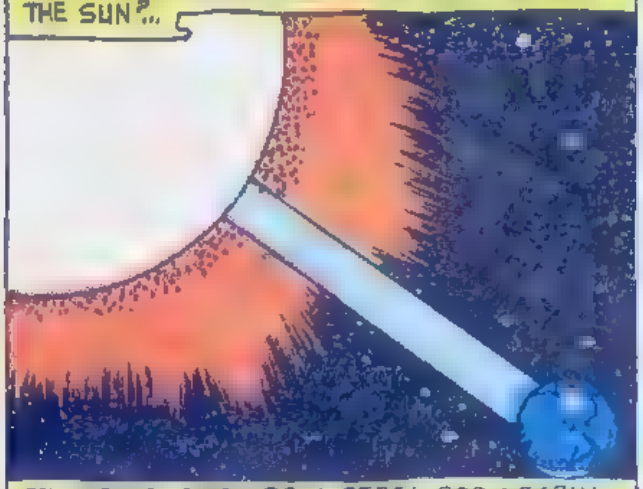
This "planet" is believed to be very hot and like a star internally, but not hot enough at its surface to shine by its own light. Thus like all of our planets, it reflects the light from the two nearby suns, and is considered to be a type of astronomical object intermediate between a sun and a planet, a sort of star-planet.

Another star-planet was discovered in the constellation of Ophiuchus, only ten times larger than Jupiter. As astronomers continue their continuous search of the universe more star-planets are expected to be discovered, though whether they'll ever be seen by human eyes is doubted.

Planets revolving around other stars must be too small and shine with too faint a light to be visible to the naked eye, and can only be discovered by ingenious measurements of star photographs. Indeed, if there were astronomers on a planet revolving round one of the nearer stars they would not even be able to see our earth with a telescope 100 times bigger than the largest one we now possess.

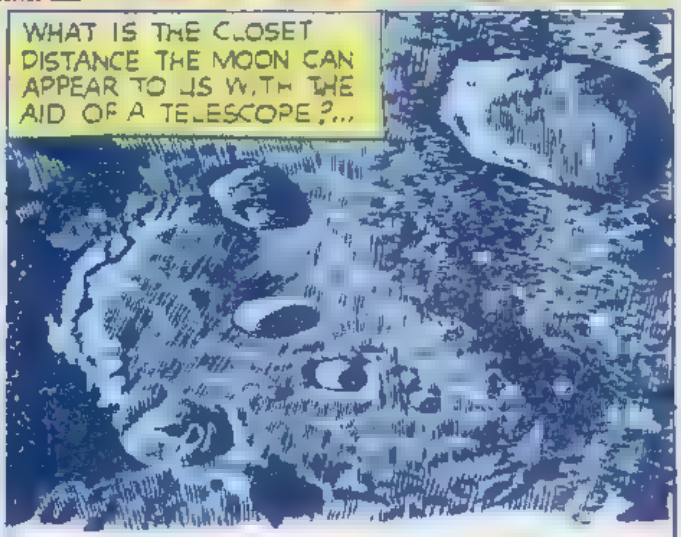
MYSTERIES in SPACE!

THE SUN KEEPS THE EARTH CIRCLING IN ITS ORBIT BY A GRAVITATIONAL GRIP THAT MAY BE COMPARED TO A STEEL ROD FASTENED TO BOTH OF THEM. SHOULD GRAVITY BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE SUN ACTUALLY VANISH, HOW THICK WOULD THIS STEEL ROD HAVE TO BE TO KEEP THE EARTH REVOLVING AROUND THE SUN?...



IT WOULD REQUIRE A STEEL ROD NEARLY 5,000 MILES THICK TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE SUN AND EARTH--A THICKNESS GREATER THAN THE WIDTH OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.!

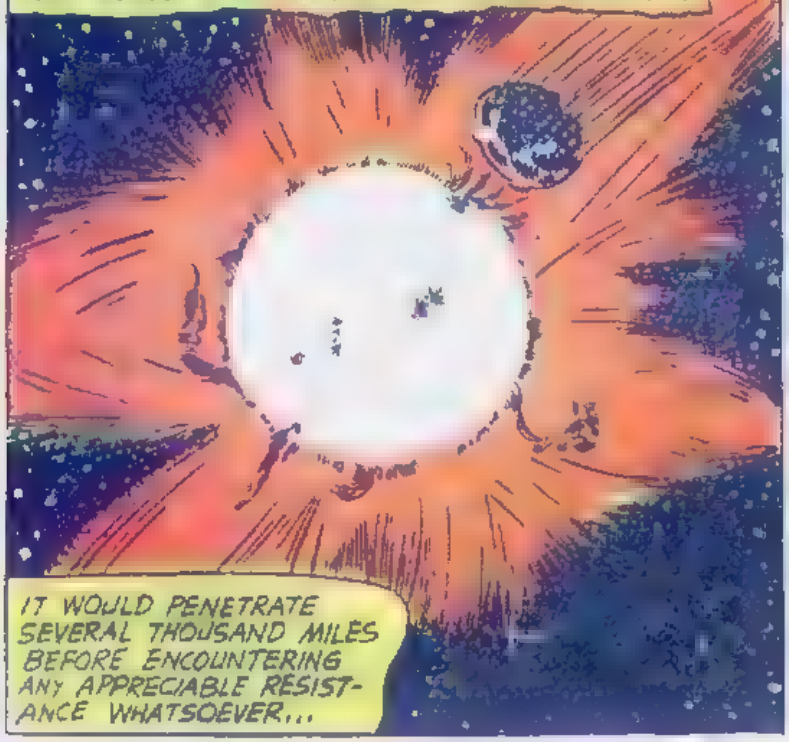
WHAT IS THE CLOSET DISTANCE THE MOON CAN APPEAR TO US WITH THE AID OF A TELESCOPE?...



CLOSE-UP OF THE MOON TAKEN THROUGH THE HALE TELESCOPE AT MT. PALOMAR OBSERVATORY...

WHEN VIEWED THROUGH A TELESCOPE WITH A MAGNIFYING POWER OF 1,000 (TO USE A GREATER MAGNIFYING POWER WOULD ONLY INCREASE ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES, BLURRING THE IMAGE OF THE MOON), THE MOON'S SURFACE APPEARS TO US AS SEEN FROM A DISTANCE OF 250 MILES.!

SUPPOSE A SOLID LUMP OF MATERIAL, INCAPABLE OF BEING BURNED, MELTED OR GASEFIED AT ANY HIGH TEMPERATURE, COULD BE DROPPED ONTO THE SUN. HOW FAR WOULD IT SINK INTO THE SOLAR BODY?...



IT WOULD PENETRATE SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES BEFORE ENCOUNTERING ANY APPRECIABLE RESISTANCE WHATSOEVER...

IF ALL THE STARS THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE COULD BE GROUND UP AND THEIR SUBSTANCES EVENLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGH SPACE, HOW MUCH ROOM WOULD **ONE OUNCE** OF MATTER OCCUPY?

THE NORTH AMERICAN NEBULA COMPRISING BILLIONS OF STARS.

WE WOULD FIND ONE OUNCE OF MATTER IN A VOLUME 32,000 TIMES THE SIZE OF THE EARTH...

DUEL IN THE STARS

BERT BRANDON, ACE INVESTIGATOR FOR INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC., EXPECTED HIS JOB TO DEMAND HIS TIME, HIS SKILL, AND HIS COURAGE! TIME AND AGAIN BERT HAS HAD TO USE HIS EXTRAORDINARY TALENTS TO SAVE HIS COMPANY FROM FINANCIAL RUIN--BUT HE NEVER EXPECTED THE OCCASION WOULD ARISE WHERE IN ORDER TO WIN HIS CASE, HE WOULD HAVE TO LOSE HIS LIFE!

ONE--
TWO--
THREE--

WHAT A DILEMMA! I HAVE TO FIGHT A DUEL IN WHICH I MUSN'T HARM MY OPPONENTS--WHILE THEY TRY TO KILL ME!

SPACEGRAM

WM. J. EMORY,
INTERPLANETARY
INSURANCE, INC.,
CAPITOL CITY, EARTH.

DEAR BOSS:

I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT YOU BARKED INTO THE INTERCOM, "BRANDON--GET OVER HERE!" THAT YOU NEEDED ME TO PULL I.I.I. OUT OF A HOLE...

"...BUT THIS ONE WASN'T JUST A HOLE--IT WAS THE GRAND CANYON!"

BERT, IN TEN MINUTES YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY TO THE STAR-PLANET MEDUSA--TO STOP A DUEL! EACH DUELLIST IS INSURED AGAINST DEATH BY I.I.I. FOR ONE MILLION CREDITS!

WHAT'S THE DUEL ALL ABOUT?

I DON'T KNOW! BUT IT'S YOUR JOB TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN OUR TWO CLIENTS!

BEFORE THEY MAKE PIECES OF EACH OTHER, EH?

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

WELL, I LANDED ON MEDUSA AND IMMEDIATELY STARTED DIGGING FOR DIRT--FROM A GOSSIP COLUMNIST--FROM WHOM I LEARNED...

"...THE CAUSE OF THE QUARREL BETWEEN OUR TWO CLIENTS, GOLLOL AND KAWAK. I MIGHT HAVE GUESSED IT WOULD BE A WOMAN!"

SO GOLLOL, MEDUSA'S LEADING ACTOR, AND KAWAK, THE STAR ATHLETE, BOTH LOVE THE BEAUTIFUL MELENI!

RIGHT! THE SURVIVOR TO WIN THE GORGEOUS CREATURE'S HAND IN MARRIAGE! THERE ARE NEWSMEN HERE FROM ALL OVER THE GALAXY TO COVER THE DUEL!

"I LOOKED UP ACTOR GOLLOL, AND FOUND HIM REHEARSING HIS ACT..."

SAY, THAT LOOKS LIKE A 20TH CENTURY EARTH WEAPON--A BAZOOKA!

SURE! THAT'S THE WEAPON THEY'VE AGREED TO USE!

WHOOOOSH!

"AFTER GOLLOL HAD FINISHED TARGET PRACTICE I SOUNDED HIM OUT ON CALLING OFF THE DUEL, BUT..."

IT'S NO CONCERN OF MINE IF THE I.I.I. STANDS TO LOSE A MILLION CREDITS IN LIFE INSURANCE! YOU'LL PAY IT TO KAWAK'S HEIRS--NOT MINE! HE TRIED TO STEAL MELENI FROM ME--AND HE'LL DIE LIKE THAT!

"IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE A DUEL, SO I RUSHED OVER TO SEE ATHLETE KAWAK..."

CANCEL OUR DUEL? ABSOLUTELY NOT! THIS IS WHAT I'M GOING TO DO TO THAT LOVE-THIEF, GOLLOL!

NO LUCK SO FAR! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SEE THE SOURCE OF ALL THIS TROUBLE--MELENI!

WHOOOSHH!

"ONE GLIMPSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL MELENI SHOWED ME WHAT ALL THE SHOOTING WAS ABOUT! SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH SHE BITTERLY OPPOSED THE DUEL..."

I'VE WARNED THEM BOTH! IF THE DUEL IS FOUGHT I'LL MARRY NEITHER ONE!

THAT'S THE FIRST SENSIBLE THING I'VE HEARD TODAY! HOW ABOUT GOING FOR A RIDE WITH ME IN MY SPACE-SPEEDSTER--AND WE'LL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER?

"SO OFF WE WENT FOR A SPIN--AND I FOUND THAT EVERY TIME I LOOKED AT MELENI, THE SPIN WAS IN MY HEAD!"

LET'S HAVE A LITTLE MUSIC...

NO--NO! TURN THAT OFF! PLEASE!

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS.

APPARENTLY, MELENI IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO DOESN'T LIKE MUSIC... WELL, WE CAN'T ALL BE PERFECT! I TALKED HER INTO ESCORTING ME ABOUT TOWN AND WHILE WE WERE VISITING A NIGHT CLUB...

"SHE GAVE ME A TERRIFIC IDEA!"

I'D ASK YOU TO DANCE, MELENI BUT I DON'T HEAR ANY MUSIC!

OH, WE NEVER HAVE MUSIC HERE!...I HOPE KAWAK AND GOLLOL DON'T FIND OUT WE'VE BEEN GOING "OGETHER! THEY'D GET VERY ANGRY...

"I SENT A MESSAGE TO GOLLOL AND KAWAK--ASKING THEM TO COME TO MY ROOM..."

WHAT'S KAWAK DOING HERE, BRANDON? LET ME AT HIM--!

GET AWAY FROM ME OR I'LL--

STOP IT, EACH OF YOU! MELENI ASKED ME TO TELL YOU SHE'S THROUGH WITH BOTH OF YOU! BECAUSE OF THIS DUEL, SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE EITHER ONE OF YOU AGAIN!

"AND THEN MY INGENIOUS PLAN, TO TURN EACH OF THEM AGAINST ME INSTEAD OF EACH OTHER--TOOK A SURPRISING TURN..."

YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS, BRANDON! HERE'S MY DAGGER! ON MEDUSA, THAT MEANS I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL!

ME TOO! WE'LL BOTH DUEL HIM, GOLLOL! WITH BAZOOKAS--AND SIMULTANEOUSLY!

"I TRIED TO REASON WITH THEM, FOLLOWING THEM DOWN TO THE HOTEL LOBBY, BUT..."

SURE, WE'RE FRIENDS NOW! WHY NOT? WE'RE BOTH GOING TO FIGHT A DUEL WITH BERT BRANDON!

I LAID A TRAP--AND FELL INTO IT MYSELF!

"I HEAVED A LONG WHISTLE OF DESPAIR--AND PROMPTLY STARTED A RIOT!..."

EEEEEEE!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

"I STOPPED WHISTLING--AND CORNERED A NEWSMAN, WHO TOLD ME SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT MEDUSA HISTORY..."

--IN WAR, THE MEDUSANS PLANTED MECHANICAL MUSICAL BOXES IN THEIR ENEMY'S CITIES--AND RUSHED OUT! WHEN THEY STARTED PLAYING, THE MUSIC DROVE THEM MAD! MEDUSANS CAN'T STAND THE SOUND OF MUSIC!

THANKS, PAL! YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE SOLUTION TO MY HORRIBLE DILEMMA!

SPACEGRAM
DEAR BOSS:
BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SUPER-BAZOOKA I WANT MANUFACTURED FOR MY DUEL! ADD TO MY ORDER ONE DERBY HAT, AND RUSH-- RUSH-- RUSH! BECAUSE--
"...THIS IS THE DAY OF THE DUEL!"
HURRAH FOR GOLLOL!
HOORAY FOR KAWAK!
BOO TO BERT BRANDON!
WHERE'S MY BAZOOKA? IF EMORY FAILS ME, I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO HIM AGAIN! I--I'LL BE TOO FULL OF BAZOOKA SHELLS TO SPEAK TO ANYONE AGAIN!
"I STILL HAD A FEW WORDS LEFT SO I USED THEM TO STALL FOR TIME..."
BUT I TELL YOU--MY BAZOOKA HASN'T ARRIVED FROM EARTH! HOW CAN I FIGHT A DUEL WITHOUT IT?
I'M SORRY, BRANDON! UNLESS YOU WANT TO CALL OFF THE DUEL, AND BE ACCLAIMED A COWARD TO THE WHOLE GALAXY, THE DUEL MUST GO ON!
"WHAT TO DO--BE A LIVE COWARD OR A DEAD HERO? I FLIPPED A MENTAL COIN--AND MARCHED OFF TO THE FIRING LINE WHEN..."
READY, GENTLEMEN? ONE--TWO--THR--
WAIT! MR. BRANDON--HERE'S YOUR WEAPON! IT JUST ARRIVED AT THE SPACEPORT--AND I RUSHED IT OVER HERE!
THANKS, MESSENGER!.. OKAY, JUDGE! I'M READY NOW!
I OBJECT! THAT ISN'T A BAZOOKA!
"WHAT A HASSLE! THE JUDGE HAD TO CONSULT A REFERENCE BOOK, AND..."
THIS IS THE ORIGINAL BAZOOKA--INVENTED BY A RADIO COMIC OF EARTH! WHAT DOES THE BOOK SAY, JUDGE?
THE ANTI-TANK WEAPON NAMED "BAZOOKA" WAS SO-CALLED BECAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE THE RADIO COMIC'S BAZOOKA! ON WITH THE DUEL!
"AND SO, ONCE AGAIN WE LINED UP... AND AS THE JUDGE RAISED HIS HAND AND STARTED TO COUNT..."
...ONE!...

SPACEGRAM
DEAR BOGG:
ORDINARILY, ODDS OF TWO-TO-ONE AGAINST ME DON'T FAZE ME! BUT HERE I WAS IN THE TICKLISH POSITION OF FIGHTING A DUEL WHICH I HAD TO WIN WITHOUT HARMING MY OPPONENTS...
..TWO!..
"THEN, AS THE JUDGE REACHED THE FINAL COUNT, I WHIPPED THE BAZOOKA UP TO MY LIPS AND.."
--THR...ULP! THAT HORRIBLE NOISE!
"I CONTINUED PLAYING, USING THE DERBY HAT TO MUTE THE MUSIC! EVEN SO, THE EFFECT WAS DISASTROUS..."
AIYEEE!
UNHHHH!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
HELP! HELP!
"...FINALLY, I STOPPED THE MUSIC AND SURVEYED THE SCENE OF MY TRIUMPH..."
I.. I.. CLAIM, A... FOUL!
I OBJECT! I FOUGHT THE DUEL WITH A BAZOOKA, AS THE RULES SPECIFIED! AND I WON! WE'LL LEAVE IT TO THE JUDGE!
"IN A LITTLE WHILE, EVERYONE RECOVERED AND, ALTHOUGH SHAKEN, LISTENED AS THE JUDGE HANDED DOWN HIS DECISION..."
MR BRANDON IS RIGHT! HIS BAZOOKA IS AN INHUMAN INSTRUMENT BUT--PERFECTLY LEGAL!
THEN--WE BOTH LOSE...COME, KAYAK! LET'S GO SEE MELENI! NOW SHE CAN PICK BETWEEN US FAIRLY!

SPACEGRAM

NATURALLY, I WAS CURIOUS TO SEE WHICH ONE MELENI WOULD CHOOSE! SO I ACCOMPANIED GOLLOL AND KAWAK TO HER HOUSE ...

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHICH ONE I'LL MARRY? VERY WELL--MY CHOICE IS--YOU!

THE FINGER'S POINTING AT ME!... OH, I'M STANDING IN FRONT OF GOLLOL AND KAWAK! I'LL MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!

"AS I MOVED ACROSS THE ROOM, MELENI'S FINGER FOLLOWED ME, AND I REALIZED..."

M-ME? NO--Y-YOU CAN'T MEAN ME, MELENI!

YES, YOU, BERT BRANDON! I CHOOSE YOU AS MY HUSBAND!

"WHAT A PREDICAMENT TO BE IN! MELENI'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL--BUT MARRIAGE DIDN'T FIGURE IN MY IMMEDIATE FUTURE PLANS! SO I TOOK THE ONLY COURSE OPEN..."

IN THAT CASE, MELENI, YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME WOO YOU EARTH-STYLE! HOW ABOUT A DATE HERE AT--SAY, EIGHT O'CLOCK?

OF COURSE, DARLING!

COME, KAWAK! EACH OF US HAS LOST MELENI--BUT FOUND A FRIEND!

"THAT EVENING, I STOOD BENEATH MELENI'S BALCONY, IN THE APPROVED ROMEO-AND-JULIET TRADITION, AND..."

ALL RIGHT, BERT DARLING! SHOW ME HOW EARTH LOVERS WOO THEIR SWEETHEARTS!

OF COURSE, MELENI! ON EARTH WE HONOR OUR SWEETHEARTS WITH--

--A SERENADE!

EEEK! WHAT HORRIBLE NOISE! GET AWAY FROM HERE! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

"AS A REWARD FOR A JOB WELL DONE, BOSS, I EXPECT A RAISE! UNLESS I GET ONE, I'M GOING OUT ON TOUR ALL OVER EARTH WITH MY BAZOOKA--A MUSICAL TOUR THAT SHOULD RAISE ME MILLIONS--!"

BAZOOKA CONCERTS ALL OVER EARTH--! OH, NO! I CAN'T BE SO CRUEL AS TO INFLICT THAT ON THE PEOPLE OF OUR PLANET! I'LL HAVE TO GIVE BERT BRANDON HIS RAISE!

The End

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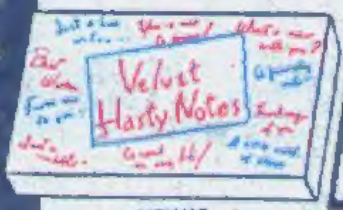

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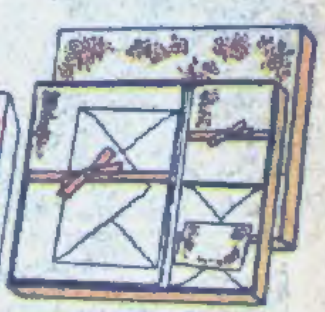

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Come on, Buddy, Quit being A BAG-of-BONES Weakling like I was

IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY YOU Can do ALL I did!

I gained **25** Terrific LBS. of **HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES** all over!

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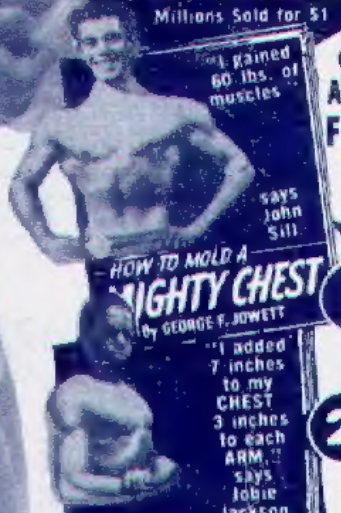
You'll be A Real ATHLETE in ALL SPORTS Soon after YOU mail Coupon.

Jim is a WINNER in ALL SPORTS NOW. YOU will be, too, soon.



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"I added 7 inches to my CHEST 3 inches to each ARM," says Jobie Jackson

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He says, I gained 70 lbs. of mighty muscle

COME ON, PAL, NOW YOU give me 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME like Jim did and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

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Whenever you're asked about the new skirts, the latest sleeves and necklines, you'll have all the answers. You need no previous experience or training whatever!

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Would you like to wear our pretty frocks and show them to friends and neighbors? Through our excitingly different Introductory Plan, you can get your own dresses—a complete wardrobe—without paying a single cent of your own money. Not only do you earn dresses for yourself and your children without paying 1¢; you can make up to $100 in a month (or even more) for selections your friends make from our presentation of over 150 glorious styles.

Everyone who sees our dresses falls in love with their exquisite styling, lovely fabrics, fine workmanship, and the rich all-'round quality at such moderate prices. So we want women all over America to see our dresses—not on models, but on average women of all ages, shapes and sizes.

Frocks for Juniors! A Couture Crepe in Lipstick Red.
Only Two of 150 Styles You'll Choose From.

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It costs nothing to investigate this unusual offer, and you will not be obligated in any way. Just put your name, address, age and dress size on the handy coupon. Paste it on a postcard and mail. You will receive what you need to get started—and without charge of any kind. But hurry—first come, first served.

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